

INL hosts nuclear technology workshop at ISTA Conference

Members of the Idaho Science Teachers Association (ISTA) who gathered Oct. 4-6 for their annual conference at Eagle High School were presented with a unique learning opportunity - an open invitation to participate in Idaho National Laboratory's (INL) comprehensive, hands-on workshop, "Nuclear Technology Addressing Worldwide Energy Demands."

Thirty-five teachers attended presentations on the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), nuclear energy fundamentals, new generation nuclear power reactors, test reactor design and reactor safety, nuclear medicine and alternative energy research. Teachers also participated in hands-on lab experiments using state-of-the-art software and equipment.

Schools represented include Garden Valley, Mackay, Wendell and Lewiston high schools and East Minico, Les Bois and Fairmont middle schools. In addition, teachers from Washington, Oregon and Nevada participated.



The Idaho Science Teachers Association annual conference included a two-day INL-organized workshop for 35 teachers. Participants included teachers from Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Nevada.



ISU Professor Steven Shropshire works with teachers Deni Davis from Fairmont Junior High, Trent Derrick from Lakeland Middle School and Paul Shaber from Fruitland High School as they analyze data for a lab experiment.

Tim McDaniel from

Dietrich High School was impressed with the caliber of presenters, including Dr. Kathryn McCarthy, INL's director of Advanced Nuclear Energy Systems Integration. He described her presentation as "awesome." He was excited about meeting new contacts and gathering more information to "open my students' eyes about the benefits of nuclear energy."

The workshop provided an opportunity for teachers to learn more about nuclear energy and careers in nuclear fields and to discuss how education and industry can encourage students to become more interested in science.

Rinrock Junior/Senior High School teacher Connie Carpenter said she attended to help her students learn about energy issues. She said the workshop was a great opportunity to get an update on nuclear energy and to see the "big picture" of the world's energy needs and potential solutions.

GNEP, one of the workshop's primary topics of discussion, is a comprehensive international strategy aimed at more broadly sharing the benefits of nuclear energy with an energy-challenged world by developing advanced technologies to recycle used nuclear fuel, reduce

wastes and avoid misuse of nuclear materials. More information on GNEP is available on the Web at www.gnep.gov.

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Kuna High School teacher DaNel Huggins shares a classroom demonstration she uses to teach students about how a chain reaction occurs.